

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /236 W

----- 115819

R 291455Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4894

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1724

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENGR, OAU, XA, BC

SUBJECT: GOB APPREHENSIVE OF OAU, ARAB LEAGUE

RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR OIL EMBARGO

AGAINST MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: ADDIS 13184

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED PROPOSED EMBARGO WITH
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND MINFIN. BOTSWANA, SWAZILAND AND
LESOTHO WORKED HARD AT ADDIS TO PREVENT ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION,
BUT THEIR PLEAS REPORTEDLY FELL FOR MOST PART ON DEAF EARS. GOB
REPS REPORT ATMOSPHERE OF MILITANCY PREVAILED AT OAU COUNCIL
MEETING AND THAT BOTH AFRICANS AND ARABS SEEMINGLY OBSESSED
WITH IDEA OF USING NEW FOUND WEAPON AGAINST MINORITY
REGIMES IN SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND PORTUGUESE
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TERRITORIES. ACCORDINGLY, GOB OFFICIALS BELIEVE EVENTUAL

EMBARGO - WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT BLS ECONOMIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS - HIGHLY PROBABLE AND ARE UNDERSTANDABLY GREATLY CONCERNED.

2. GOB SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOOKODI CONFIRMED IDEA TOOK SHAPE DURING OCTOBER "SUMMIT" MEETING TANZANIA, ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. CONCEPT ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED AT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONFERENCE WITH TANZANIA REPORTEDLY LEADING AND LEAST TRACTABLE ADVOCATE. GOB OFFICIALS REPORT BLS CALLS FOR MODERATION PREJUDICED BY WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT AGAINST SWAZILAND AND LESOTHO FOR THEIR FAILURE BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THERE WERE ALLEGEDLY OUTSPOKEN, EMOTIONAL ATTACKS AGAINST TWO COUNTRIES IN CORRIDORS WHILE SEVERAL SPEAKERS OPENLY CONDEMNED "CERTAIN COUNTRIES" FOR FAILURE GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY IN BREAK WITH ISRAEL. AS CONSEQUENCE, THERE VIRTUALLY NO SYMPATHY FOR POSITIONS SWAZILAND AND LESOTHO AND THEY THEREFORE EXCLUDED FROM COMMITTEES SUCH AS DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF TWELVE. GOB REPRESENTATIVES REPORTED THERE WAS WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE NOTION THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD SUPPLIED AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS TO ISRAEL DURING CONFLICT AND THAT REFUSAL SWAZILAND AND LESOTHO TO BREAK RELATIONS CONSIDERED IPSO FACTO TANTAMOUNT COLLUSION WITH ENEMY.

3. BOTSWANA IN MUCH STRONGER POSITION AS CONSEQUENCE ITS RUPTURE WITH ISRAEL AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT KHAMA WITH PROMINENT AFRICAN LEADERS INCLUDING KAUNDA AND NYERERE. GOB HAD CAREFULLY PREPARED POSITION PAPER STRESSING BLS DEPENDENCY ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR PETROL SUPPLY AND DAMAGE OIL EMBARGO WOULD HAVE ON ECONOMIES. THERE REPORTEDLY SOME SYMPATHY FOR POSITION BOTSWANA. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTSWANA WAS APPOINTED TO LIAISON COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, A POSITION ORIGINALLY RESERVED FOR ZAMBIA. TANZANIA AND LIBYA ALLEGEDLY PLEDGED ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING BOTSWANA'S OIL NEEDS VIA NORTHER BORDER, ALTHOUGH THEY VERY SHORT ON SPECIFICS. A FEW STATES, INCLUDING SUCH UNLIKELY COUNTRIES AS LIBYA, ALGERIA AND UGANDA, CALLED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BLS PLIGHT BUT ONLY IN CONTEXT OF ASSISTING THEM DURING CRITICAL PERIOD AHEAD. VOTE ON FINAL RESOLUTION WAS UNANIMOUS WITH EXCEPTION BOTSWANA, SWAZILAND AND LESOTHO WHICH "EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS."

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4. ALTHOUGH TIME FRAME NOT ESTABLISHED, GOB ANTICIPATES COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WILL BE CALLED UPON SOON TO MEET IN COORDINATION WITH OAU SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE POSITION FOR MEETING WITH ARAB LEAGUE WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE IN FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE. ACCORDING GOB INFORMATION, POSITION IRAN, WHICH A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF OIL TO SOUTH AFRICA ALONG WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER ARAB STATES, UNCLEAR THIS

JUNCTURE.

5. GOB DELEGATION RETURNED YESTERDAY FROM PRETORIA MEETING WITH HIGH LEVEL SAG OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS MULLER. SAG OFFICIALS, WHO TOLD GOB REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT 70 PERCENT OIL ENTERING REPUBLIC COMES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, ALARMED AND DISCOURAGED. SAG AND RHODESIA REPORTEDLY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION BOTSWANA OIL SUPPLY FROM NORTH SINCE IMPORTATION THROUGH ZAMBIA WOULD ALLEVIATE HOWEVER SLIGHTLY ANTICIPATED CRITICAL SHORTAGE THROUGHOUT CUSTOMS UNION AREA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

6. GOB CONCERNED ABOUT DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OIL EMBARGO COULD HAVE ON OVERALL ECONOMY AND CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY. BULK MEAT EXPORTS IN ADDITION DIAMONDS AND FUTURE COPPER-NICKEL EXPORTS COULD BE STALLED BY LACK FUEL AT SA BUNKERING FACILITIES. IF EMBARGO COMES, GOB TENTATIVELY PLANS CONTINUE BOTZAM CONSTRUCTION USING FUEL BROUGHT IN FROM ZAMBIA VIA KASANE, AND TRANSITTING RHODESIA AS NECESSARY.

7. MOOKODI AND PERMSEC MINCOMM DEPARTED YESTERDAY FOR LUSAKA TO DISCUSS MODALITIES IMPORTATION FROM TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION TRUCKING OIL FROM PIPELINE TERMINAL AT NDOLA TO BOTSWANA VIA KASANE. SOLUTION THIS NATURE PRESUMES SUFFICIENT TRUCK TRANSPORT WHICH ALREADY STRAINED AND ADEQUATE PIPELINE CAPACITY.
NELSON

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